

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 11-30 are pending. Claims 11-20, 22-23 and 27-29 are canceled herein. Claim 21 is being amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 21, 24-26 and 30 will be pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 27 is allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To that end, Applicant has amended independent claim 21 to include the text of **allowable claim 27** and all of the text of the intervening claims (*i.e.*, claims 22-23). Accordingly, claim 21 is now allowable. Claim 27 is being canceled as duplicative of amended claim 21.

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-26 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Buxton Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 2,983,173) in view of Martinmaas (U.S. Patent No. 4,437,364). Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been rendered moot by the above amendments to the claims. In particular, amended claim 21 and its dependent claims (*i.e.*, claims 24-26 and 30) are now allowable; claims 22-23 and 28-29 are canceled.

Finally, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claims 28-29 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is also rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 28-29.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 21, 24-26 and 30 is respectfully requested. A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. However, should any further issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900 to resolve the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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